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**PATENT APPLICATION**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of

Docket No: Q83544

Hajime KONDOU

Appln. No.: 10/509,034

Group Art Unit: 1712

Confirmation No.: 1370

Examiner: Unknown

Filed: September 27, 2004

For: NATURAL RUBBER, RUBBER COMPOSITION AND PNEUMATIC TIRE

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

**UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98**

**MAIL STOP AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

1. EP 0 805 163 A2, published November 5, 1997 to Kao Corporation.
2. U.S. Patent No. 6,265,479 B1 issued July 24, 2001 was previously submitted on September 27, 2004.
3. U.S. Patent No. 2,116,089 A issued May 3, 1938 to Wallerstein Leo.
4. GB 2 179 355 A, published March 4, 1987 to The Board of the Rubber Research Institute of Malaysia.
5. EP 1 149 902 A, published October 31, 2001 to Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd.

Hajime KONDOU  
U.S. Appln. No.: 10/509,034  
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith, except for the following: U.S. patents and/or U.S. patent publications.


The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date; (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a request for continued examination (RCE) under §1.114, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

Applicant encloses herewith a copy of a corresponding Supplementary European Search Report dated March 27, 2006, citing such documents and indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign patent office.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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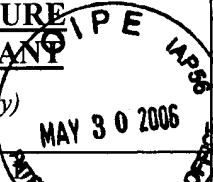
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WASHINGTON OFFICE

**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: May 30, 2006

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| Substitute for Form 1449 A & B/PTO<br><br><b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE<br/>STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b><br><i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i> |   |    | Complete if Known      |                    |
|  |   |    | Application Number     | 10/509,034         |
|   |   |    | Confirmation Number    | 1370               |
|  |   |    | Filing Date            | September 27, 2004 |
|  |   |    | First Named Inventor   | Hajime KONDOU      |
|  |   |    | Art Unit               | 1712               |
|  |   |    | Examiner Name          | Unknown            |
|  |   |    | Attorney Docket Number | Q83544             |
| Sheet  | 1 | of |                        |                    |

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> | Document Number |                                      | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
|                    |                       | Number          | Kind Code <sup>2</sup><br>(if known) |                                |   |
|                    |                       | US 2,116,089    | A                                    | 05/03/1938                     | Wallerstein Leo                                 |
|                    |                       | US              |                                      |                                |   |
|                    |                       | US              |                                      |                                |   |
|                    |                       | US              |                                      |                                |   |
|                    |                       | US              |                                      |                                |   |
|                    |                       | US              |                                      |                                |   |
|                    |                       | US              |                                      |                                |   |
|                    |                       | US              |                                      |                                |   |
|                    |                       | US              |                                      |                                |   |

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> | Foreign Patent Document   |                     |                                      | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document        | Translation <sup>6</sup> |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--------------------------|
|                    |                       | Country Code <sup>3</sup> | Number <sup>4</sup> | Kind Code <sup>5</sup><br>(if known) |                                |  |                          |
|                    |                       | EP                        | 0 805 163           | A2                                   | 11/05/1997                     | Kao Corporation  |                          |
|                    |                       | GB                        | 2 179 355           | A                                    | 03/04/1987                     | The Board of the Rubber Research Institute of Malaysia |                          |
|                    |                       | EP                        | 1 149 902           | A                                    | 10/31/2001                     | Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd.                       |                          |
|                    |                       |                           |                     |                                      |                                |  |                          |
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## NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published. | Translation <sup>6</sup> |
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| Examiner Signature |  | Date Considered |  |
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup>Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup>See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov), MPEP 901.04 or follow the hyperlink from the title of the document to the intranet. <sup>3</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). <sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup>Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.